

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 OMB-01

DRC-01 /182 W

----- 065483

R 241400Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9219

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PINS PFOR GV

SUBJECT : SEKOU TOURE TURNS ATTENTION AWAY FROM QUARRELS
WITH NEIGHBORING CHIEFS OF STATE

REF: CONAKRY 1614

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE LAUNCHED HIS CURRENT WAR OF WORDS AGAINST SENGHOR AND HOUPOUET LATE IN AUGUST, ONE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GUINEAN REGIME HAS OTHER INTERESTS. FROM OCTOBER 19-21 TOURE PRESIDED AT A CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GUINEA AND ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE ON THREE OCCASIONS. HIS TONE OF VOICE WAS LOW-KEY AND HIS STYLE DETACHED AS HE GAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO IMPLEMENT HIS CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

2. THE MAIN POINT OF TOURE'S REMARKS AND OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MEETINGS WAS THAT GUINEA WOULD GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY
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TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND WAS

MOVING TO ADOPT SELF-HELP MEASURES TO ELIMINATE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS FOR PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT AND DAKAR BY AIRGRAM.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE CHANGE IN EMPHASIS WAS DUE TO EFFORTS OF OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE TOURE TO SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS WITH NEIGHBORING REGIMES IN THE OAU CONTEXT. IN THIS CONNECTION WE DO KNOW THAT IN ADDITION TO NIGERIAN AND GHANIAN DELEGATIONS REPORTED CONAKRY 1578 AND 1579 THAT AT LEAST THREE OTHER DELEGATIONS VISITED CONAKRY EARLIER THIS MONTH WHILE LIBERIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE TOLBERT DISCUSSED GUINEA'S CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH HER NEIGHBORS WITH TOURE ON OCTOBER 22. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT INERTIA AND PRESSING DEMANDS IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR HELPED DEFLECT TOURE'S ATTENTION AWAY FROM SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET.
TODMAN

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